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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

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Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/785,340	Applicant(s) BOCKING, ANDREW D.
	Examiner JOHN HEFFINGTON	Art Unit 2172

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 April 2010.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1.4-6.9,11,13-17 and 19-21 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1.4-6.9,11,13-17 and 19-21 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 5/26/10, 6/1/10, 3/10/11

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

This action is in response to the Request for Continued Examination filed 8 April 2010.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 6, 9, 11, 13, 16, 17 and 19 have been amended. Claims 2, 3, 7, 8, 10, 12 and 18 are canceled. Claims 20 and 21 are new. Claims 1, 4-6, 9, 11, 13-17 and 19-21 are pending and have been considered below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takatsuka et al. (US 5,936,548) in view of Katagiri (US 6,778,069 B1) and further in view of Canfield et al. (US 7,281,215 B1).

Claim 1. Takatsuka discloses a method of managing unread electronic messages comprising the steps of:

- a. displaying a home screen on a visual display (column 5, lines 14-20 [(19)] directory. In the example shown in FIG. 5B, the display unit 52 displays the total message number and presence or absence of the non-read message per directory. In the example shown in FIG. 5C, the display unit 52 displays the

total message number and the number of the non-read messages per directory.], figures 5b and 5c);

b. providing, at a location on the home screen, a first indicator of the presence of a number of unread electronic messages received, or an associated value reflecting the number of unread electronic messages received (column 5, lines 14-20 [(19) In the example shown in FIG. 5B, the display unit 52 displays the total message number and presence or absence of the non-read message per directory. In the example shown in FIG. 5C, the display unit 52 displays the total message number and the number of the non-read messages per directory.], figures 5b and 5c);

c. selectively displaying on the visual display a message listing enabling review of summaries of unread electronic messages received without opening the unread electronic messages (column 5, lines 42-48 [(22) FIG. 6 shows an example of the list display carried out at the step 206. In this example, the display unit 52 displays, per message, a portion of the message, receiving date and time, whether or not the message is non-read, and a message sender. Other than the display example shown in FIG. 6, the display can be carried out by combining desired attributes.] figure 6).

Takatsuka does not disclose the first indicator of the presence of a number of unread electronic messages received **and** the associated value reflecting the number of unread electronic messages received are provided at a location on the home screen, as disclosed in the claims. However, in the same field of invention, Katagiri discloses "(1) Also, a mark ".star." indicating that the received message has not been read yet is displayed on the third line of the screen of the display unit 4. Further, a numeral "1" which is the piece number of the unread received messages counted by the adder unit 5 is displayed on the fourth line of the screen." (column 5, lines 46-51, figure 2A).

Therefore, considering the teachings of Takatsuka and Katagiri, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to add the first indicator of the presence of a number of unread electronic messages received **and** the associated value reflecting the number of unread electronic messages received are provided at a location on the home screen to the teachings of Takatsuka.

One would have been motivated to add the first indicator of the presence of a number of unread electronic messages received **and** the associated value reflecting the number of unread electronic messages received are provided at a location on the home screen to the teachings of Takatsuka because it would lessen any possible confusion for the user if he/she had to first read a heading to see which column indicated unread messages

and then scan down to the row for the directory containing the unread messages by providing the user with a more complete summary of the number of unread messages so that the user could see at a glance that there are unread messages and the number of unread messages simultaneously on the same line as the directory of messages.

Takatsuka does not disclose altering said the first indicator to provide, at the location on the home screen, a visually distinguishable non-numerical annunciation that new unread electronic messages have been received following display of the message listing, as disclosed in the claims. However, Takatsuka discloses "(10) ... non-read messages (whose receipts are not confirmed by the user or whose contents are not confirmed by the user)... " (column 4, lines 11-13), that is, non-read messages can be those messages whose receipts have been confirmed but not necessarily whose contents have been confirmed, i.e. the contents of the message doesn't have to be read and Katagiri discloses "(16) As the display operation to display the received messages, the instruction input employed to display the new received messages on the screen can be recognized by, for example, the already-read instruction operation indicating that the user has read the received messages, the unread reading operation by which displays the received messages on the screen, the display clearing operation which clears the screen display of the received messages on the display unit, etc. " (column 3, lines 40-48), "(13) Then, the screen

display in FIG. 2D shows the state wherein the mark ".star. " displayed on the third line to indicate that the received message has not been read yet is cleared since the user has input the already-read instruction operation, ... "(column 6, lines 5-9, figure 2D) and "(14) In such case, while holding the screen display in FIG. 2D, the user does not particularly apply the already-read instruction operation so as to display the older unread received message as the display operation. As already described, since the user has applied the already-read instruction operation to the operating unit 6, the adder unit 5 counts the piece number of the received messages when the received message is further received newly from this state, and then causes to display the piece number of the received messages received after the already-read instruction operation has been issued on the fourth line of the screen." "(15) The screen display in FIG. 2E shows the state wherein two new received messages are received after the screen display in FIG. 2D, and the mark ".star." displayed on the third line to indicate that the received messages have not been read yet and the piece number "2" of the unread received messages displayed on the fourth line are displayed on the screen, ... "(column 6, lines 19-38, figures 2C-2E) In figure 2C; Ten new messages have been received and a star is displayed to indicate 10 new unread messages; the

user reads the latest message but does not read the other 9 messages, therefore the other 9 are unread; the star is then removed and the number indicating the number of unread messages is decremented by 1; from this state, with 9 unread messages and the star indicating the presence of unread messages removed, when 2 new unread messages are subsequently received, the count of unread messages now indicates the 2 new unread messages and the star is re-displayed to indicate the arrival of the 2 new unread messages; that is, re-displaying the new count of new unread messages and re-displaying the star to indicate new unread messages when in the previous state there were still unread messages approximates the claimed limitation of an indication of new unread messages when all of the previous unread messages were read in the last viewing.

Therefore, considering the teachings of Takatsuka and Katagiri, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to add an indicator to provide, at the location on the home screen, a visually distinguishable non-numerical annunciation that new unread electronic messages have been received following display of the message listing to the teachings of Takatsuka and Katagiri.

One would have been motivated to add a first indicator to provide, at the location on the home screen, a visually distinguishable non-numerical annunciation that new unread electronic messages have been received following display of the message listing to the teachings of Takatsuka and Katagiri because this adds further detail for the user to

more completely understand the state of new unread messages; i.e. it would be useful for the user to not only see the total number of unread messages, but to also see the number of newly arrived unread messages. This may be useful because the user may have scanned the current unread messages for a particular message of interest and found that that message was not present and notifying the user of newer unread messages since the last can alerts the user that the message of interest may be in the next set of unread messages. Further, the user may not remember the number of unread messages and can readily see that new unread messages have arrived.

Takatsuka and Katagiri do not disclose altering the first indicator, as disclosed in the claims. However, in the same field of invention, Canfield discloses "(9) An indicator is provided to the user to indicate whether the user has viewed a received IM message in an existing IM session. For example, an indicator such as a blinking interface tab or area on an interface tab may be provided for a received IM message that has not been viewed. ... and once viewed, the indicator changes without having to actually reply to the message itself." (column 2, lines 19-29). Therefore, considering the teachings of Takatsuka, Katagiri and Canfield, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to add altering the first indicator to the teachings of Takatsuka and Katagiri. One would have been motivated to add altering the first indicator to the teachings of Takatsuka and Katagiri because the Supreme Court in KSR International Co. v.

Teleflex Inc. identified applying a known technique to a known device (method, or product) ready for improvement to yield predictable results as a rational to support a conclusion of obviousness which is consistent with the proper “functional approach” to the determination of obviousness as laid down in Graham.

Claims 2-3. (Cancelled)

Claim 4. Takatsuka discloses a method of managing unread electronic messages comprising the steps of:

- d. displaying a home screen on a visual display (column 5, lines 14-20 [(19) directory. In the example shown in FIG. 5B, the display unit 52 displays the total message number and presence or absence of the non-read message per directory. In the example shown in FIG. 5C, the display unit 52 displays the total message number and the number of the non-read messages per directory.], figures 5b and 5c);
- e. providing, at a location on the home screen, a first indicator of the presence of a number of unread electronic messages received, or an associated value reflecting the number of unread electronic messages received (column 5, lines 14-20 [(19) directory. In the example shown in FIG. 5B, the display unit 52 displays the total message number and presence or absence of the non-read message per directory.

In the example shown in FIG. 5C, the display unit 52 displays the total message number and the number of the non-read messages per directory.], figures 5b and 5c);

- f. selectively displaying on the visual display a message listing enabling review of summaries of unread electronic messages received without opening the unread electronic messages (column 5, lines 42-48 [(22) FIG. 6 shows an example of the list display carried out at the step 206. In this example, the display unit 52 displays, per message, a portion of the message, receiving date and time, whether or not the message is non-read, and a message sender. Other than the display example shown in FIG. 6, the display can be carried out by combining desired attributes.] figure 6).

Takatsuka does not disclose the first indicator of the presence of a number of unread electronic messages received **and** the associated value reflecting the number of unread electronic messages received are provided at a location on the home screen, as disclosed in the claims. However, in the same field of invention, Katagiri discloses "(11) Also, a mark ".star." indicating that the received message has not been read yet is displayed on the third line of the screen of the display unit 4. Further, a numeral "1" which is the piece number of the unread received messages counted by the adder unit

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5 is displayed on the fourth line of the screen." (column 5, lines 46-51, figure 2A).

Therefore, considering the teachings of Takatsuka and Katagiri, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to add the first indicator of the presence of a number of unread electronic messages received **and** the associated value reflecting the number of unread electronic messages received are provided at a location on the home screen to the teachings of Takatsuka.

One would have been motivated to add the first indicator of the presence of a number of unread electronic messages received **and** the associated value reflecting the number of unread electronic messages received are provided at a location on the home screen to the teachings of Takatsuka because it would lessen any possible confusion for the user if he/she had to first read a heading to see which column indicated unread messages and then scan down to the row for the directory containing the unread messages by providing the user with a more complete summary of the number of unread messages so that the user could see at a glance that there are unread messages and the number of unread messages simultaneously on the same line as the directory of messages.

Takatsuka does not disclose generating a second indicator at, or proximate to, the location on the home screen, to provide a visually distinguishable non-numerical annunciation by altering the first indicator with the non-numerical annunciation to reflect

that new electronic messages have been received following display of the message listing, as disclosed in the claims. However, Takatsuka discloses "(10) ... non-read messages (whose receipts are not confirmed by the user or whose contents are not confirmed by the user)... " (column 4, lines 11-13), that is, non-read messages can be those messages whose receipts have been confirmed but not necessarily whose contents have been confirmed, i.e. the contents of the message doesn't have to be read and Katagiri discloses "(13) Then, the screen display in FIG. 2D shows the state wherein the mark ".star. " displayed on the third line to indicate that the received message has not been read yet is cleared since the user has input the already-read instruction operation, ... " (column 6, lines 5—9, figure 2D) and "(14) In such case, while holding the screen display in FIG. 2D, the user does not particularly apply the already-read instruction operation so as to display the older unread received message as the display operation. As already described, since the user has applied the already-read instruction operation to the operating unit 6, the adder unit 5 counts the piece number of the received messages when the received message is further received newly from this state, and then causes to display the piece number of the received messages received after the already-read instruction operation has been issued on the fourth line of the screen." "(15) The screen display in FIG. 2E shows the state

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wherein two new received messages are received after the screen display in FIG. 2D, and the mark ".star." displayed on the third line to indicate that the received messages have not been read yet and the piece number "2" of the unread received messages displayed on the fourth line are displayed on the screen," (column 6, lines 19-38, figures 2C-2E) In figure 2C; Ten new messages have been received and a star is displayed to indicate 10 new unread messages; the user reads the latest message but does not read the other 9 messages, therefore the other 9 are unread; the star is then removed and the number indicating the number of unread messages is decremented by 1; from this state, with 9 unread messages and the star indicating the presence of unread messages removed, when 2 new unread messages are subsequently received, the count of unread messages now indicates the 2 new unread messages and the star is re-displayed to indicate the arrival of the 2 new unread messages; that is, re-displaying the new count of new unread messages and re-displaying the star to indicate new unread messages when in the previous state there were still unread messages approximates the claimed limitation of an indication of new unread messages when all of the previous unread messages were read in the last viewing.

Therefore, considering the teachings of Takatsuka and Katagiri, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to add generating a second indicator at, or proximate to, the location on the home screen, to

provide a visually distinguishable non-numerical annunciation to reflect that new electronic messages have been received following display of the message listing to the teachings of Takatsuka and Katagiri.

One would have been motivated to add generating a second indicator at, or proximate to, the location on the home screen, to provide a visually distinguishable non-numerical annunciation to reflect that new electronic messages have been received following display of the message listing to the teachings of Takatsuka and Katagiri because this adds further detail for the user to more completely understand the state of new unread messages; i.e. it would be useful for the user to not only see the total number of unread messages, but to also see the number of newly arrived unread messages. This may be useful because the user may have scanned the current unread messages for a particular message of interest and found that that message was not present and notifying the user of newer unread messages since the last can alerts the user that the message of interest may be in the next set of unread messages. Further, the user may not remember the number of unread messages and can readily see that new unread messages have arrived.

Takatsuka and Katagiri do not disclose altering the first indicator, as disclosed in the claims. However, in the same field of invention, Canfield discloses "(9) An indicator is provided to the user to indicate whether the user has viewed a received IM message in an existing IM session. For example, an

indicator such as a blinking interface tab or area on an interface tab may be provided for a received IM message that has not been viewed. ... and once viewed, the indicator changes without having to actually reply to the message itself." (column 2, lines 19-29). Therefore, considering the teachings of Takatsuka, Katagiri and Canfield, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to add altering the first indicator to the teachings of Takatsuka and Katagiri. One would have been motivated to add altering the first indicator to the teachings of Takatsuka and Katagiri because the Supreme Court in KSR International Co. v. Teleflex Inc. identified applying a known technique to a known device (method, or product) ready for improvement to yield predictable results as a rational to support a conclusion of obviousness which is consistent with the proper "functional approach" to the determination of obviousness as laid down in Graham.

Claim 5. Takatsuka, Katagiri and Canfield disclose the method of Claim 4, and Canfield further discloses "For example, an indicator such as a blinking interface tab or area on an interface tab may be provided for a received IM message that has not been viewed." (column 2, lines 19-29). Therefore, considering the teachings of Takatsuka, Katagiri and Canfield, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to add displaying an icon with the first and second indicators; and altering the icon by flashing, bolding, changing the size, and changing the color of the icon to the teachings of

Takatsuka, Katagiri and Canfield. One would have been motivated to add displaying an icon with the first and second indicators; and altering the icon by flashing, bolding, changing the size, and changing the color of the icon to the teachings of Takatsuka, Katagiri and Canfield because the Supreme Court in KSR International Co. v. Teleflex Inc. identified applying a known technique to a known device (method, or product) ready for improvement to yield predictable results as a rational to support a conclusion of obviousness which is consistent with the proper "functional approach" to the determination of obviousness as laid down in Graham.

Claim 6. Takatsuka, Katagiri and Canfield disclose the method of Claim 4, and Takatsuka discloses "(10) ... non-read messages (whose receipts are not confirmed by the user or whose contents are not confirmed by the user)..." (column 4, lines 11-13), that is, non-read messages can be those messages whose receipts have been confirmed but not necessarily whose contents have been confirmed, i.e. the contents of the message doesn't have to be read and Katagiri discloses "(13) Then, the screen display in FIG. 2D shows the state wherein the mark ".star. " displayed on the third line to indicate that the received message has not been read yet is cleared since the user has input the already-read instruction operation, ..." (column 6, lines 5—9, figure 2D) and "(14) In such case, while holding the screen display in FIG. 2D, the user does not particularly apply the already-read instruction operation so as

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to display the older unread received message as the display operation. As already described, since the user has applied the already-read instruction operation to the operating unit 6, the adder unit 5 counts the piece number of the received messages when the received message is further received newly from this state, and then causes to display the piece number of the received messages received after the already-read instruction operation has been issued on the fourth line of the screen." "(15) The screen display in FIG. 2E shows the state wherein two new received messages are received after the screen display in FIG. 2D, and the mark ".star." displayed on the third line to indicate that the received messages have not been read yet and the piece number "2" of the unread received messages displayed on the fourth line are displayed on the screen," (column 6, lines 19-38, figures 2C-2E) In figure 2C; Ten new messages have been received and a star is displayed to indicate 10 new unread messages; the user reads the latest message but does not read the other 9 messages, therefore the other 9 are unread; the star is then removed and the number indicating the number of unread messages is decremented by 1; from this state, with 9 unread messages and the star indicating the presence of unread messages removed, when 2 new unread messages are subsequently received, the count of unread messages now indicates the 2 new unread messages and the star is re-displayed to indicate the arrival of the 2 new unread messages; that is, re-

displaying the new count of new unread messages and re-displaying the star to indicate new unread messages when in the previous state there were still unread messages approximates the claimed limitation of an indication of new unread messages when all of the previous unread messages were read in the last viewing.

Therefore, considering the teachings of Takatsuka, Katagiri and Canfield, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to add adding indicia to said the first indicator to the teachings of Takatsuka, Katagiri and Canfield.

One would have been motivated to add adding indicia to said the first indicator to the teachings of Takatsuka, Katagiri and Canfield because this adds further detail for the user to more completely understand the state of new unread messages; i.e. it would be useful for the user to not only see the total number of unread messages, but to also see the number of newly arrived unread messages. This may be useful because the user may have scanned the current unread messages for a particular message of interest and found that that message was not present and notifying the user of newer unread messages since the last can alerts the user that the message of interest may be in the next set of unread messages. Further, the user may not remember the number of unread messages and can readily see that new unread messages have arrived.

Claim 7-8. (Cancelled)

Claim 9. Takatsuka, Katagiri and Canfield disclose the method of Claim 4, and Takatsuka further discloses the step of altering the first indicator comprises altering at least one of the unread mail icon and the count (column 5, lines 62-64 [Simultaneously, the control section 20 erases the non-read flag of the readout message.]).

Claim 10. (Cancelled)

Claim 11. Takatsuka discloses a system for managing electronic messages received, comprising:

- a. a visual display (figures 5-6);
- b. a home screen displaying one or more icons corresponding to functions that can be performed by the system (column 5, lines 19-24 [In the example shown in FIG. 5C, the display unit 52 displays the total message number and the number of the non-read messages per directory. In FIGS. 5A to 5C, a portion corresponding to the directory C is surrounded by a rectangular frame. This represents that the directory C is being selected now. In practice, this portion is indicated by inversion display.], Microsoft Press Computer Dictionary Third Edition, Microsoft Press, 1997, ISBN

1-57321-446-X defines an icon as "A small image displayed on the screen to represent an object that can be manipulated by the user." The rectangle surrounding directory C indicating that directory C can be selected qualifies as an icon under this definition.);

- c. a message list listing providing summaries of each of unread electronic messages received without opening the unread electronic messages (column 5, lines 42-48 [(22) FIG. 6 shows an example of the list display carried out at the step 206. In this example, the display unit 52 displays, per message, a portion of the message, receiving date and time, whether or not the message is non-read, and a message sender. Other than the display example shown in FIG. 6, the display can be carried out by combining desired attributes.] figure 6);
- d. input means for selectively displaying the message list listing on the visual display (column 5, lines 19-24 [In the example shown in FIG. 5C, the display unit 52 displays the total message number and the number of the non-read messages per directory. In FIGS. 5A to 5C, a portion corresponding to the directory C is surrounded by a rectangular frame. This represents that the directory C is being selected now. In practice, this portion is indicated by inversion display.]);

e. a first indicator at a location on the home screen for indicating the presence of a number of unread messages or an associated value reflecting the number of unread electronic messages received (column 5, lines 14-20 [(19) In the example shown in FIG. 5B, the display unit 52 displays the total message number and presence or absence of the non-read message per directory. In the example shown in FIG. 5C, the display unit 52 displays the total message number and the number of the non-read messages per directory.], figures 5b and 5c).

Takatsuka does not disclose the first indicator at a location on the home screen for indicating the presence of a number of unread messages, **and** the associated value reflecting the number of unread electronic messages received, as disclosed in the claims. However, in the same field of invention, Katagiri discloses "(11) Also, a mark ".star." indicating that the received message has not been read yet is displayed on the third line of the screen of the display unit 4. Further, a numeral "1" which is the piece number of the unread received messages counted by the adder unit 5 is displayed on the fourth line of the screen." (column 5, lines 46-51, figure 2A).

Therefore, considering the teachings of Takatsuka and Katagiri, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to add the first indicator at a location on the home screen for indicating the presence of a number of unread messages, **and** the associated value reflecting the number of unread electronic messages received to the teachings of Takatsuka.

One would have been motivated to add the first indicator at a location on the home screen for indicating the presence of a number of unread messages, **and** the associated value reflecting the number of unread electronic messages received to the teachings of Takatsuka because it would lessen any possible confusion for the user if he/she had to first read a heading to see which column indicated unread messages and then scan down to the row for the directory containing the unread messages by providing the user with a more complete summary of the number of unread messages so that the user could see at a glance that there are unread messages and the number of unread messages simultaneously on the same line as the directory of messages.

Takatsuka does not disclose a second indicator at, or proximate, to the location on the home screen that alters the first indicator to provide a visually distinguishable non-numerical annunciation of reflecting the presence of new unread electronic messages received following display of the message listing, as disclosed in the claims. However, Takatsuka discloses "(10) ... non-read messages (whose receipts are not confirmed by the user or whose contents are not confirmed by the

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user) ... " (column 4, lines 11-13), that is, non-read messages can be those messages whose receipts have been confirmed but not necessarily whose contents have been confirmed, i.e. the contents of the message doesn't have to be read and Katagiri discloses "(13) Then, the screen display in FIG. 2D shows the state wherein the mark ".star. " displayed on the third line to indicate that the received message has not been read yet is cleared since the user has input the already-read instruction operation, ... " (column 6, lines 5—9, figure 2D) and "(14) In such case, while holding the screen display in FIG. 2D, the user does not particularly apply the already-read instruction operation so as to display the older unread received message as the display operation. As already described, since the user has applied the already-read instruction operation to the operating unit 6, the adder unit 5 counts the piece number of the received messages when the received message is further received newly from this state, and then causes to display the piece number of the received messages received after the already-read instruction operation has been issued on the fourth line of the screen." "(15) The screen display in FIG. 2E shows the state wherein two new received messages are received after the screen display in FIG. 2D, and the mark ".star." displayed on the third line to indicate that the received messages have not been read yet and

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the piece number "2" of the unread received messages displayed on the fourth line are displayed on the screen," (column 6, lines 19-38, figures 2C-2E) In figure 2C; Ten new messages have been received and a star is displayed to indicate 10 new unread messages; the user reads the latest message but does not read the other 9 messages, therefore the other 9 are unread; the star is then removed and the number indicating the number of unread messages is decremented by 1; from this state, with 9 unread messages and the star indicating the presence of unread messages removed, when 2 new unread messages are subsequently received, the count of unread messages now indicates the 2 new unread messages and the star is re-displayed to indicate the arrival of the 2 new unread messages; that is, re-displaying the new count of new unread messages and re-displaying the star to indicate new unread messages when in the previous state there were still unread messages approximates the claimed limitation of an indication of new unread messages when all of the previous unread messages were read in the last viewing.

Therefore, considering the teachings of Takatsuka and Katagiri, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to add a second indicator at, or proximate, to the location on the home screen to provide a visually distinguishable non-numerical annunciation of reflecting the presence of new unread electronic messages received following display of the message listing to the teachings of Takatsuka and Katagiri.

One would have been motivated to add a second indicator at, or proximate, to the location on the home screen to provide a visually distinguishable non-numerical annunciation of reflecting the presence of new unread electronic messages received following display of the message listing to the teachings of Takatsuka and Katagiri because this adds further detail for the user to more completely understand the state of new unread messages; i.e. it would be useful for the user to not only see the total number of unread messages, but to also see the number of newly arrived unread messages. This may be useful because the user may have scanned the current unread messages for a particular message of interest and found that that message was not present and notifying the user of newer unread messages since the last can alerts the user that the message of interest may be in the next set of unread messages. Further, the user may not remember the number of unread messages and can readily see that new unread messages have arrived.

Takatsuka and Katagiri do not disclose altering the first indicator, as disclosed in the claims. However, in the same field of invention, Canfield discloses "(9) An indicator is provided to the user to indicate whether the user has viewed a received IM message in an existing IM session. For example, an indicator such as a blinking interface tab or area on an interface tab may be provided for a received IM message that has not been viewed. ... and once viewed, the indicator changes without having to actually reply to the message itself." (column 2,

lines 19-29). Therefore, considering the teachings of Takatsuka, Katagiri and Canfield, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to add altering the first indicator to the teachings of Takatsuka and Katagiri. One would have been motivated to add altering the first indicator to the teachings of Takatsuka and Katagiri because the Supreme Court in KSR International Co. v. Teleflex Inc. identified applying a known technique to a known device (method, or product) ready for improvement to yield predictable results as a rational to support a conclusion of obviousness which is consistent with the proper “functional approach” to the determination of obviousness as laid down in Graham.

Claim 12. (Cancelled)

Claim 13. Takatsuka, Katagiri and Canfield disclose the system of Claim 11, and Takatsuka further discloses the visually distinguishable annunciation received comprises an alteration to the count of unread electronic messages received (column 5, lines 16-19, [In the example shown in FIG. 5C, the display unit 52 displays the total message number and the number of the non-read messages per directory.], column 5, lines 62-64 [Simultaneously, the control section 20 erases the non-read flag of the readout message.], In figure 5C, the number of non-read messages per directory is displayed and, when viewing the directory, a non-read flag is erased; therefore, when the window

of figure 5C is displayed after a non-read message is read, the number of non-read messages in figure 5C will reflect the new count of non-read messages).

Claim 14 Takatsuka, Katagiri and Canfield disclose the system of Claim 13 and Canfield further discloses "For example, an indicator such as a blinking interface tab or area on an interface tab may be provided for a received IM message that has not been viewed." (column 2, lines 19-29). Therefore, considering the teachings of Takatsuka, Katagiri and Canfield, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to add the alteration to the count comprises at least one of: bolding the count, flashing the count, changing the size of the count and changing the color of the count to the teachings of Takatsuka, Katagiri and Canfield. One would have been motivated to add the alteration to the count comprises at least one of: bolding the count, flashing the count, changing the size of the count and changing the color of the count to the teachings of Takatsuka, Katagiri and Canfield because the Supreme Court in KSR International Co. v. Teleflex Inc. identified applying a known technique to a known device (method, or product) ready for improvement to yield predictable results as a rational to support a conclusion of obviousness which is consistent with the proper "functional approach" to the determination of obviousness as laid down in Graham.

Claim 15. Takatsuka, Katagiri and Canfield disclose the system of claim 11, and Takatsuka discloses "(10) ... non-read messages (whose receipts are not

confirmed by the user or whose contents are not confirmed by the user) ... "(column 4, lines 11-13), that is, non-read messages can be those messages whose receipts have been confirmed but not necessarily whose contents have been confirmed, i.e. the contents of the message doesn't have to be read and Katagiri discloses "(13) Then, the screen display in FIG. 2D shows the state wherein the mark ".star." displayed on the third line to indicate that the received message has not been read yet is cleared since the user has input the already-read instruction operation, ... "(column 6, lines 5—9, figure 2D) and "(14) In such case, while holding the screen display in FIG. 2D, the user does not particularly apply the already-read instruction operation so as to display the older unread received message as the display operation. As already described, since the user has applied the already-read instruction operation to the operating unit 6, the adder unit 5 counts the piece number of the received messages when the received message is further received newly from this state, and then causes to display the piece number of the received messages received after the already-read instruction operation has been issued on the fourth line of the screen." "(15) The screen display in FIG. 2E shows the state wherein two new received messages are received after the screen display in FIG. 2D, and the mark ".star." displayed on the third line to

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indicate that the received messages have not been read yet and the piece number "2" of the unread received messages displayed on the fourth line are displayed on the screen," (column 6, lines 19-38, figures 2C-2E) In figure 2C; Ten new messages have been received and a star is displayed to indicate 10 new unread messages; the user reads the latest message but does not read the other 9 messages, therefore the other 9 are unread; the star is then removed and the number indicating the number of unread messages is decremented by 1; from this state, with 9 unread messages and the star indicating the presence of unread messages removed, when 2 new unread messages are subsequently received, the count of unread messages now indicates the 2 new unread messages and the star is re-displayed to indicate the arrival of the 2 new unread messages; that is, re-displaying the new count of new unread messages and re-displaying the star to indicate new unread messages when in the previous state there were still unread messages approximates the claimed limitation of an indication of new unread messages when all of the previous unread messages were read in the last viewing.

Therefore, considering the teachings of Takatsuka, Katagiri and Canfield, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to add the second indicator comprises additional indicia on the display to the teachings of Takatsuka, Katagiri and Canfield.

One would have been motivated to add the second indicator comprises additional indicia on the display to the teachings of Takatsuka, Katagiri and Canfield because this adds further detail for the user to more completely understand the state of new unread messages; i.e. it would be useful for the user to not only see the total number of unread messages, but to also see the number of newly arrived unread messages. This may be useful because the user may have scanned the current unread messages for a particular message of interest and found that that message was not present and notifying the user of newer unread messages since the last can alerts the user that the message of interest may be in the next set of unread messages. Further, the user may not remember the number of unread messages and can readily see that new unread messages have arrived.

Claimm 16. Takatsuka, Katagiri and Canfield disclose the system of Claim 11, and Takatsuka discloses "(10) ... non-read messages (whose receipts are not confirmed by the user or whose contents are not confirmed by the user) ..." (column 4, lines 11-13), that is, non-read messages can be those messages whose receipts have been confirmed but not necessarily whose contents have been confirmed, i.e. the contents of the message doesn't have to be read and Katagiri discloses "(13) Then, the screen display in FIG. 2D shows the state wherein the mark ".star. " displayed on the third line to indicate that the received message has not been read yet is cleared since the user has input the already-read instruction

operation, ... " (column 6, lines 5—9, figure 2D) and "(14) In such case, while holding the screen display in FIG. 2D, the user does not particularly apply the already-read instruction operation so as to display the older unread received message as the display operation. As already described, since the user has applied the already-read instruction operation to the operating unit 6, the adder unit 5 counts the piece number of the received messages when the received message is further received newly from this state, and then causes to display the piece number of the received messages received after the already-read instruction operation has been issued on the fourth line of the screen." "(15) The screen display in FIG. 2E shows the state wherein two new received messages are received after the screen display in FIG. 2D, and the mark ".star." displayed on the third line to indicate that the received messages have not been read yet and the piece number "2" of the unread received messages displayed on the fourth line are displayed on the screen," (column 6, lines 19-38, figures 2C-2E) In figure 2C; Ten new messages have been received and a star is displayed to indicate 10 new unread messages; the user reads the latest message but does not read the other 9 messages, therefore the other 9 are unread; the star is then removed and the number indicating the number of unread messages is decremented by 1; from this state, with 9 unread messages and the star indicating the presence of

unread messages removed, when 2 new unread messages are subsequently received, the count of unread messages now indicates the 2 new unread messages and the star is re-displayed to indicate the arrival of the 2 new unread messages; that is, re-displaying the new count of new unread messages and re-displaying the star to indicate new unread messages when in the previous state there were still unread messages approximates the claimed limitation of an indication of new unread messages when all of the previous unread messages were read in the last viewing.

Therefore, considering the teachings of Takatsuka, Katagiri and Canfield, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to add the second indicator comprises a message icon on the display adjacent the count of unread electronic messages received, and the annunciation of the presence of new unread electronic messages received since the message list was last displayed comprises altering the message icon to the teachings of Takatsuka, Katagiri and Canfield.

One would have been motivated to add the second indicator comprises a message icon on the display adjacent the count of unread electronic messages received, and the annunciation of the presence of new unread electronic messages received since the message list was last displayed comprises altering the message icon to the teachings of Takatsuka, Katagiri and Canfield because this adds further detail for the user to more completely understand the state of new unread messages; i.e. it would be useful for the user to not only see the total number of unread messages, but to also see the number

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of newly arrived unread messages. This may be useful because the user may have scanned the current unread messages for a particular message of interest and found that that message was not present and notifying the user of newer unread messages since the last can alerts the user that the message of interest may be in the next set of unread messages. Further, the user may not remember the number of unread messages and can readily see that new unread messages have arrived.

Claim 17. Takatsuka, Katagiri and Canfield disclose the system of Claim 16, and Canfield further discloses "For example, an indicator such as a blinking interface tab or area on an interface tab may be provided for a received IM message that has not been viewed." (column 2, lines 19-29). Therefore, considering the teachings of Takatsuka, Katagiri and Canfield, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to add the altering the message icon comprises at least one of: bolding the icon, flashing the icon, changing the size of the icon and changing the color of the icon to the teachings of Takatsuka, Katagiri and Canfield. One would have been motivated to add the altering the message icon comprises at least one of: bolding the icon, flashing the icon, changing the size of the icon and changing the color of the icon to the teachings of Takatsuka, Katagiri and Canfield because the Supreme Court in KSR International Co. v. Teleflex Inc. identified applying a known technique to a known device (method, or product) ready for improvement to yield predictable results as a rational to support a conclusion of obviousness which is consistent with the proper "functional approach" to

the determination of obviousness as laid down in Graham.

18. (Cancelled)

Claim 20. Takatsuka discloses a method of managing unread electronic messages comprising the steps of:

- a. displaying a home screen on a visual display (column 5, lines 14-20 [(19) directory. In the example shown in FIG. 5B, the display unit 52 displays the total message number and presence or absence of the non-read message per directory. In the example shown in FIG. 5C, the display unit 52 displays the total message number and the number of the non-read messages per directory.], figures 5b and 5c);
- b. providing, at a location on the home screen, a first indicator of the presence of a number of unread electronic messages received, or an associated value reflecting the number of unread electronic messages received (column 5, lines 14-20 [(19) In the example shown in FIG. 5B, the display unit 52 displays the total message number and presence or absence of the non-read message per directory. In the example shown in FIG. 5C, the display unit 52 displays the total message number and the number of the non-read messages per directory.], figures 5b and 5c);

c. selectively displaying on the visual display a message listing enabling review of summaries of the unread electronic messages received without opening of the unread electronic messages (column 5, lines 42-48 [(22) FIG. 6 shows an example of the list display carried out at the step 206. In this example, the display unit 52 displays, per message, a portion of the message, receiving date and time, whether or not the message is non-read, and a message sender. Other than the display example shown in FIG. 6, the display can be carried out by combining desired attributes.] figure 6);

Takatsuka does not disclose the first indicator of the presence of a number of unread electronic messages received **and** the associated value reflecting the number of unread electronic messages received are provided at a location on the home screen, as disclosed in the claims. However, in the same field of invention, Katagiri discloses "(11) Also, a mark ".star." indicating that the received message has not been read yet is displayed on the third line of the screen of the display unit 4. Further, a numeral "1" which is the piece number of the unread received messages counted by the adder unit 5 is displayed on the fourth line of the screen." (column 5, lines 46-51, figure 2A).

Therefore, considering the teachings of Takatsuka and Katagiri, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to add the first indicator of the presence of a number of unread electronic messages received **and** the associated value reflecting the number of unread electronic messages received are provided at a location on the home screen to the teachings of Takatsuka.

One would have been motivated to add the first indicator of the presence of a number of unread electronic messages received **and** the associated value reflecting the number of unread electronic messages received are provided at a location on the home screen to the teachings of Takatsuka because it would lessen any possible confusion for the user if he/she had to first read a heading to see which column indicated unread messages and then scan down to the row for the directory containing the unread messages by providing the user with a more complete summary of the number of unread messages so that the user could see at a glance that there are unread messages and the number of unread messages simultaneously on the same line as the directory of messages.

Takatsuka does not disclose altering said the first indicator to provide, at the location on the home screen, a visually distinguishable non-numerical annunciation that new unread electronic messages have been received following display of the message listing, as disclosed in the claims. However, Takatsuka discloses "(10) ... non-read messages (whose receipts are not confirmed by the user or whose contents are not confirmed by the user)... " (column 4, lines 11-13), that is,

non-read messages can be those messages whose receipts have been confirmed but not necessarily whose contents have been confirmed, i.e. the contents of the message doesn't have to be read and Katagiri discloses "(13) Then, the screen display in FIG. 2D shows the state wherein the mark ".star." displayed on the third line to indicate that the received message has not been read yet is cleared since the user has input the already-read instruction operation, ... "(column 6, lines 5—9, figure 2D) and "(14) In such case, while holding the screen display in FIG. 2D, the user does not particularly apply the already-read instruction operation so as to display the older unread received message as the display operation. As already described, since the user has applied the already-read instruction operation to the operating unit 6, the adder unit 5 counts the piece number of the received messages when the received message is further received newly from this state, and then causes to display the piece number of the received messages received after the already-read instruction operation has been issued on the fourth line of the screen." "(15) The screen display in FIG. 2E shows the state wherein two new received messages are received after the screen display in FIG. 2D, and the mark ".star." displayed on the third line to indicate that the received messages have not been read yet and the piece number "2" of the unread received messages

displayed on the fourth line are displayed on the screen," (column 6, lines 19-38, figures 2C-2E) In figure 2C; Ten new messages have been received and a star is displayed to indicate 10 new unread messages; the user reads the latest message but does not read the other 9 messages, therefore the other 9 are unread; the star is then removed and the number indicating the number of unread messages is decremented by 1; from this state, with 9 unread messages and the star indicating the presence of unread messages removed, when 2 new unread messages are subsequently received, the count of unread messages now indicates the 2 new unread messages and the star is re-displayed to indicate the arrival of the 2 new unread messages; that is, re-displaying the new count of new unread messages and re-displaying the star to indicate new unread messages when in the previous state there were still unread messages approximates the claimed limitation of an indication of new unread messages when all of the previous unread messages were read in the last viewing.

Therefore, considering the teachings of Takatsuka and Katagiri, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to add an indicator to provide, at the location on the home screen, a visually distinguishable non-numerical annunciation that new unread electronic messages have been received following display of the message listing to the teachings of Takatsuka and Katagiri.

One would have been motivated to add a first indicator to provide, at the location on the home screen, a visually distinguishable non-numerical annunciation that new unread electronic messages have been received following display of the message listing to the teachings of Takatsuka and Katagiri because this adds further detail for the user to more completely understand the state of new unread messages; i.e. it would be useful for the user to not only see the total number of unread messages, but to also see the number of newly arrived unread messages. This may be useful because the user may have scanned the current unread messages for a particular message of interest and found that that message was not present and notifying the user of newer unread messages since the last can alerts the user that the message of interest may be in the next set of unread messages. Further, the user may not remember the number of unread messages and can readily see that new unread messages have arrived.

Takatsuka and Katagiri do not disclose altering the first indicator, as disclosed in the claims. However, in the same field of invention, Canfield discloses "(9) An indicator is provided to the user to indicate whether the user has viewed a received IM message in an existing IM session. For example, an indicator such as a blinking interface tab or area on an interface tab may be provided for a received IM message that has not been viewed. ... and once viewed, the indicator changes without having to actually reply to the message itself." (column 2, lines 19-29). Therefore, considering the teachings of Takatsuka, Katagiri and Canfield,

it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to add altering the first indicator to the teachings of Takatsuka and Katagiri. One would have been motivated to add altering the first indicator to the teachings of Takatsuka and Katagiri because the Supreme Court in KSR International Co. v. Teleflex Inc. identified applying a known technique to a known device (method, or product) ready for improvement to yield predictable results as a rational to support a conclusion of obviousness which is consistent with the proper “functional approach” to the determination of obviousness as laid down in Graham.

Takatsuka further discloses the updating the associated value to provide a value reflecting the number of unread electronic messages (column 5, lines 16-19, [In the example shown in FIG. 5C, the display unit 52 displays the total message number and the number of the non-read messages per directory.], column 5, lines 62-64 [Simultaneously, the control section 20 erases the non-read flag of the readout message.], In figure 5C, the number of non-read messages per directory is displayed and, when viewing the directory, a non-read flag is erased; therefore, when the window of figure 5C is displayed after a non-read message is read, the number of non-read messages in figure 5C will reflect the new count of non-read messages). Takatsuka does not disclose updating the associated value to provide a single value simultaneously reflecting the number of unread electronic messages and the number of new unread electronic message received following display of the message listing, as disclosed in the claims.

However, Takatsuka discloses "(10) ... non-read messages (whose receipts are not confirmed by the user or whose contents are not confirmed by the user)... " (column 4, lines 11-13), that is, non-read messages can be those messages whose receipts have been confirmed but not necessarily whose contents have been confirmed, i.e. the contents of the message doesn't have to be read and Katagiri discloses "(13) Then, the screen display in FIG. 2D shows the state wherein the mark ".star. " displayed on the third line to indicate that the received message has not been read yet is cleared since the user has input the already-read instruction operation, ... " (column 6, lines 5—9, figure 2D) and "(14) In such case, while holding the screen display in FIG. 2D, the user does not particularly apply the already-read instruction operation so as to display the older unread received message as the display operation. As already described, since the user has applied the already-read instruction operation to the operating unit 6, the adder unit 5 counts the piece number of the received messages when the received message is further received newly from this state, and then causes to display the piece number of the received messages received after the already-read instruction operation has been issued on the fourth line of the screen." "(15) The screen display in FIG. 2E shows the state wherein two new received messages are received after the screen display in FIG.

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2D, and the mark ".star." displayed on the third line to indicate that the received messages have not been read yet and the piece number "2" of the unread received messages displayed on the fourth line are displayed on the screen," (column 6, lines 19-38, figures 2C-2E) In figure 2C; Ten new messages have been received and a star is displayed to indicate 10 new unread messages; the user reads the latest message but does not read the other 9 messages, therefore the other 9 are unread; the star is then removed and the number indicating the number of unread messages is decremented by 1; from this state, with 9 unread messages and the star indicating the presence of unread messages removed, when 2 new unread messages are subsequently received, the count of unread messages now indicates the 2 new unread messages and the star is re-displayed to indicate the arrival of the 2 new unread messages; that is, re-displaying the new count of new unread messages and re-displaying the star to indicate new unread messages when in the previous state there were still unread messages approximates the claimed limitation of an indication of new unread messages when all of the previous unread messages were read in the last viewing.

Therefore, considering the teachings of Takatsuka, Katagiri and Canfield, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to add updating the associated value to provide a single value simultaneously reflecting the number of unread electronic messages and the number of new unread electronic

message received following display of the message listing to the teachings of Takatsuka, Katagiri and Canfield.

One would have been motivated to add updating the associated value to provide a single value simultaneously reflecting the number of unread electronic messages and the number of new unread electronic message received following display of the message listing to the teachings of Takatsuka, Katagiri and Canfield because this adds further detail for the user to more completely understand the state of new unread messages; i.e. it would be useful for the user to not only see the total number of unread messages, but to also see the number of newly arrived unread messages. This may be useful because the user may have scanned the current unread messages for a particular message of interest and found that that message was not present and notifying the user of newer unread messages since the last can alerts the user that the message of interest may be in the next set of unread messages. Further, the user may not remember the number of unread messages and can readily see that new unread messages have arrived.

Claim 21. Takatsuka, Katagiri and Canfield disclose the method of Claim 1, and Katagiri further discloses "(13) Then, the screen display in FIG. 2D shows the state wherein the mark ".star." displayed on the third line to indicate that the received message has not been read yet is cleared since the user has input the already-read instruction

operation, ... " (column 6, lines 5—9, figure 2D) and "(14) In such case, while holding the screen display in FIG. 2D, the user does not particularly apply the already-read instruction operation so as to display the older unread received message as the display operation. As already described, since the user has applied the already-read instruction operation to the operating unit 6, the adder unit 5 counts the piece number of the received messages when the received message is further received newly from this state, and then causes to display the piece number of the received messages received after the already-read instruction operation has been issued on the fourth line of the screen." "(15) The screen display in FIG. 2E shows the state wherein two new received messages are received after the screen display in FIG. 2D, and the mark ".star." displayed on the third line to indicate that the received messages have not been read yet and the piece number "2" of the unread received messages displayed on the fourth line are displayed on the screen," (column 6, lines 19-38, figures 2C-2E) In figure 2C; Ten new messages have been received and a star is displayed to indicate 10 new unread messages; the user reads the latest message but does not read the other 9 messages, therefore the other 9 are unread; the star is then removed and the number indicating the number of unread messages is decremented by 1; from this state, with 9 unread messages and the star indicating the presence of

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unread messages removed, when 2 new unread messages are subsequently received, the count of unread messages now indicates the 2 new unread messages and the star is re-displayed to indicate the arrival of the 2 new unread messages; that is, re-displaying the new count of new unread messages and re-displaying the star to indicate new unread messages when in the previous state there were still unread messages approximates the claimed limitation of an indication of new unread messages when all of the previous unread messages were read in the last viewing by having the visually distinguishable non-numeric annunciation be either displayed or not displayed depending on the presence of newly received unread messages.

Therefore, considering the teaching of Takatsuka, Katagiri and Canfield, it would have been obvious to add the steps of: determining a Boolean value associated with the visually distinguishable non-numerical annunciation; and triggering the Boolean value, upon receipt of the new unread electronic messages following display of the message listing, to control displaying of the visually distinguishable non-numerical annunciation to the teachings of Takatsuka, Katagiri and Canfield.

One would have been motivated to add the steps of: determining a Boolean value associated with the visually distinguishable non-numerical annunciation; and triggering the Boolean value, upon receipt of the new unread electronic messages following display of the message listing, to control displaying of the visually distinguishable non-numerical annunciation to the teachings of Takatsuka, Katagiri and Canfield so that the

user can know definitely whether new unread messages have arrived and not have to try to interpret multiple meanings of variations of an icon to indicate a simple true/false concept.

3. Claims 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takatsuka et al. (US 5,936,548) in view of Katagiri (US 6,778,069 B1).

Claim 19. Takatsuka discloses a method of managing unread electronic messages comprising the steps of:

- a. displaying a home screen on a visual display (column 5, lines 14-20 [(19) directory. In the example shown in FIG. 5B, the display unit 52 displays the total message number and presence or absence of the non-read message per directory. In the example shown in FIG. 5C, the display unit 52 displays the total message number and the number of the non-read messages per directory.], figures 5b and 5c);
- b. providing, at a location on the home screen, a first indicator of the presence of a number of unread electronic messages received, or a first associated value reflecting the number of unread electronic messages received (column 5, lines 14-20 [(19) In the example shown in FIG. 5B, the display unit 52 displays the total message number and presence or

absence of the non-read message per directory. In the example shown in FIG. 5C, the display unit 52 displays the total message number and the number of the non-read messages per directory., figures 5b and 5c);

- c. selectively displaying on the visual display a message listing enabling review of summaries of unread electronic messages received without opening the unread electronic messages (column 5, lines 42-48 [(22) FIG. 6 shows an example of the list display carried out at the step 206. In this example, the display unit 52 displays, per message, a portion of the message, receiving date and time, whether or not the message is non-read, and a message sender. Other than the display example shown in FIG. 6, the display can be carried out by combining desired attributes.] figure 6);

Takatsuka does not disclose the first indicator of the presence of a number of unread electronic messages received **and** the first associated value reflecting the number of unread electronic messages received are provided at a location on the home screen, as disclosed in the claims. However, in the same field of invention, Katagiri discloses "(11) Also, a mark ".star." indicating that the received message has not been read yet is displayed on the third line of the screen of the display unit 4. Further, a numeral "1" which is the piece number of the unread received messages counted by the adder unit

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5 is displayed on the fourth line of the screen." (column 5, lines 46-51, figure 2A).

Therefore, considering the teachings of Takatsuka and Katagiri, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to add the first indicator of the presence of a number of unread electronic messages received **and** the first associated value reflecting the number of unread electronic messages received are provided at a location on the home screen to the teachings of Takatsuka.

One would have been motivated to add the first indicator of the presence of a number of unread electronic messages received **and** the first associated value reflecting the number of unread electronic messages received are provided at a location on the home screen to the teachings of Takatsuka because it would lessen any possible confusion for the user if he/she had to first read a heading to see which column indicated unread messages and then scan down to the row for the directory containing the unread messages by providing the user with a more complete summary of the number of unread messages so that the user could see at a glance that there are unread messages and the number of unread messages simultaneously on the same line as the directory of messages.

Takatsuka does not disclose providing a second indicator at the location on the home screen, reflecting the number of new unread electronic messages received following

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display of the message listing, as disclosed in the claims. However, Takatsuka discloses "(10) ... non-read messages (whose receipts are not confirmed by the user or whose contents are not confirmed by the user)... " (column 4, lines 11-13), that is, non-read messages can be those messages whose receipts have been confirmed but not necessarily whose contents have been confirmed, i.e. the contents of the message doesn't have to be read and Katagiri discloses "(13) Then, the screen display in FIG. 2D shows the state wherein the mark ".star. " displayed on the third line to indicate that the received message has not been read yet is cleared since the user has input the already-read instruction operation, ... " (column 6, lines 5—9, figure 2D) and "(14) In such case, while holding the screen display in FIG. 2D, the user does not particularly apply the already-read instruction operation so as to display the older unread received message as the display operation. As already described, since the user has applied the already-read instruction operation to the operating unit 6, the adder unit 5 counts the piece number of the received messages when the received message is further received newly from this state, and then causes to display the piece number of the received messages received after the already-read instruction operation has been issued on the fourth line of the screen." "(15) The screen display in FIG. 2E shows the state wherein two new received messages are

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received after the screen display in FIG. 2D, and the mark ".star." displayed on the third line to indicate that the received messages have not been read yet and the piece number "2" of the unread received messages displayed on the fourth line are displayed on the screen," (column 6, lines 19-38, figures 2C-2E) In figure 2C; Ten new messages have been received and a star is displayed to indicate 10 new unread messages; the user reads the latest message but does not read the other 9 messages, therefore the other 9 are unread; the star is then removed and the number indicating the number of unread messages is decremented by 1; from this state, with 9 unread messages and the star indicating the presence of unread messages removed, when 2 new unread messages are subsequently received, the count of unread messages now indicates the 2 new unread messages and the star is re-displayed to indicate the arrival of the 2 new unread messages; that is, re-displaying the new count of new unread messages and re-displaying the star to indicate new unread messages when in the previous state there were still unread messages approximates the claimed limitation of an indication of new unread messages when all of the previous unread messages were read in the last viewing.

Therefore, considering the teachings of Takatsuka and Katagiri, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to add providing a second indicator at the location on the home screen, reflecting the number

of new unread electronic messages received following display of the message listing to the teachings of Takatsuka and Katagiri.

One would have been motivated to add providing a second indicator at the location on the home screen, reflecting the number of new unread electronic messages received following display of the message listing, to the teachings of Takatsuka and Katagiri because this adds further detail for the user to more completely understand the state of new unread messages; i.e. it would be useful for the user to not only see the total number of unread messages, but to also see the number of newly arrived unread messages. This may be useful because the user may have scanned the current unread messages for a particular message of interest and found that that message was not present and notifying the user of newer unread messages since the last can alerts the user that the message of interest may be in the next set of unread messages. Further, the user may not remember the number of unread messages and can readily see that new unread messages have arrived.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JOHN HEFFINGTON whose telephone number is (571)270-1696. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 am to 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Boris M. Pesin can be reached on 571-272-4070. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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/Boris Pesin/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
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6/17/11